



## PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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March 17, 2011

Governor Brian Schweitzer  
Montana State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor:

The Park County Commission is extremely concerned with your decision to "let the bison roam" in the area north of Gardiner. There are 329 homes in the area which will no doubt lead to bison-human interactions at some point. In addition, there is a major highway that carries considerable traffic to Gardiner and Yellowstone National Park in a daily basis. These bison are not like elk. They are well trained by the Park to just stand on the highway, rub on the nearest house, walk through a fence, cross the river at any point or do anything they please. We have already had two major collisions, one of which was a near fatality.

Since the bison buffer article appeared in the Gazette last Wednesday, the details of the bison agreement between you and the Park Superintendent are becoming clear. The buffalo guard is being installed as we write this letter and another \$58,000 of our tax dollars are being spent following a \$250,000 expenditure for a failed fence and previous to that an expenditure of \$3.25 million to rent grazing property. If it is your intention to allow additional bison out of the Park, will the landowners be receiving the same payment of \$238 per animal unit month that FWP is paying the Church?

As we expressed our concern to Mr. Volesky, we feel that Park County has been left out of the negotiation between the Park and your office. He stated that all meetings have been public however the following quote appeared in the AP article. ***"Officials from several agencies told The Associated Press Wednesday that behind-the-scenes discussions on the proposal have been taking place for about a month."*** I know that you believe in transparent government. We would certainly appreciate some additional communications when public safety of our citizens is being discussed.

Sincerely

Jim Durgan  
County Commissioner

Randy Taylor  
County Commissioner

Marty Malone  
County Commissioner